

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Republican Estate Tax bill. This legislation is further evidence of Republican's chronic addiction to digging deeper into debt. At a time when we face a deficit of over \$400 billion, Republicans today chose to pass a bill that will cost Americans another \$290 billion—with the cost growing to nearly a trillion dollars after 10 years. This vote comes less than a month after the Majority supported a budget that will slash funding from education and from our firefighters, police, and veterans. This is a clear statement of the majority's priority which is to put corporations and the very rich ahead of our families and communities.

Another rarely discussed provision of the Republican bill is the repeal of "step-up in basis", which will result in an increase in capital gains taxes and additional compliance burdens for many estates. This means that more families, businesses and family farms will have an increased tax liability rather than receive any benefit from this repeal.

I support the Democratic alternative, the Certain and Immediate Estate Tax Relief Act, which would take effect next year and exempt 99.7 percent of families and businesses from this tax for a third of the cost of the Republican proposal. In fact, if this substitute is adopted, all but 71 Minnesota families, 11 North Dakota families, and 5 South Dakota families will be exempted from the estate tax.

Permanent repeal of the estate tax benefits only the very wealthiest in our society while endangering our long-term economic stability and the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. It is my hope that Congress and the Administration will end this reckless spending and return us to common-sense, responsible public policy that makes the health, education and safety of American families our top priority.

IN HONOR OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN
LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment to worker issues. Assemblywoman Greenstein received the Hubert H.

Humphrey Friend of Labor Award, sponsored by the AFL-CIO, at the annual Labor Awards Breakfast on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

As a third-term Assemblywoman for the 14th legislative district, Assemblywoman Greenstein has proven herself to be an outstanding political leader. She currently serves as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, the Assistant Majority Leader of the Assembly, the Vice-Chair of the Assembly Federal Relations Committee, and as a member of the Budget Committee.

In the Assembly, she has strived to achieve positive policy changes, particularly in the areas of labor and the protection of personal freedoms and workers' rights. Assemblywoman Greenstein is the main sponsor of the Call Center Disclosure Bill and the author of New Jersey's anti-telemarketing law. She sponsored the bill-turned-law that added two union members to the State Health Benefits Commission. Throughout the years, she has consistently supported bills that would enact workers compensation reform and ensure the rights and well-being of New Jersey citizens.

Her past leadership endeavors include serving as Vice-President of the Mercer County School Boards Association and being elected to the Plainsboro Township Committee for six years. Currently, she is a board member of multiple community organizations, such as the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the Boy Scouts of America.

Besides her political career, Assemblywoman Greenstein has had an extensive law career working as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, a Clinical Associate Professor at Seton Hall Law School, and a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Justice in Trenton.

Assemblywoman Greenstein attended Vassar College, John Hopkins University, and the Georgetown University Law Center. She and her husband have one son and live in Plainsboro.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her dedicated commitment to serving her community, her extensive involvement in political affairs, and her tireless efforts to serve the people of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN TODD ORR
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Todd Orr, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most pres-

tigious award of Eagle Scout. Steven received his Eagle Award on March 5, 2005 at an Eagle Court of Honor in Platte Woods, Missouri.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years, Steven has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle project, Steven designed and built a Prayer Path at Platte Woods United Methodist Church, where I might add, his Eagle Court of Honor was held. Steven's work on this project included designing, planning, and implementing the path construction on newly acquired church property. Steven cleared the path area, and installed rock and flagstones, as well as plant life. The project provides church members with a place to pray and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Todd Orr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AMANDA VERNOR, BALL ELE-
MENTARY TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Amanda Vernor, Ball Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Vernor holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Specialization in Reading from Southwest Texas State University. She is currently updating her credentials as a participant in the University of North Texas Master's program, where she is pursuing a degree in Information Sciences.

Amanda Vernor instructs her fourth grade class in a variety of subjects: reading, writing, math, and science. She is a relatively new teacher: she has three years of experience, all with the Seguin Independent School District. She is already making a difference for her students, however, helping to turn them into successful lifelong learners.

Ms. Vernor believes in challenging her students: she is known to say that "students will live up to your lowest expectation." She believes that what students need is guidance in planning a course of action to achieve their goals, and she aims to provide that for them.

Amanda Vernor is an exemplary teacher, and a blessing to the people of Seguin. She has an excellent career ahead of her, and I wish her the best of luck.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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